Sanitation and connectivity in Jharkhand

2712. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages of Jharkhand have been provided Mini Sewerage Plants;

(b) how many more villages are proposed to be provided Mini Sewerage Plants during the current financial year and the allocation made for the purpose;

(c) whether any proposal for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been received from Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the further planning to cover the rest of the villages by the roads which have not yet been connected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) Under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), there is no provision/component to provide Mini Sewerage Plants in villages. However, TSC has a component of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). Up to 10% of the TSC project cost can be utilized for meeting capital costs incurred under this component like low cost drainage, soakage pits etc. Rs.4062.55 lakh has been approved under this component for districts in Jharkhand and so far 244 villages have taken up works under this component.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The proposals received from the State of Jharkhand for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), and approved by Ministry of Rural Development upto March, 2009 is as below:

Value of Projects	-	Rs.2087.64 crore
No. of roads	-	1651
Length in Km.	-	8164.46

(e) Further proposals for connecting balance unconnected habitations under PMGSY will be considered based on physical and financial progress of already sanctioned projects.

Study report on NREGS

2713. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Harvard Centre for Population and Development Studies has observed that the potential of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) for poverty reduction is not fully realised;

(b) whether the study has found that higher NREGS wages undermine the self-selection of the poor on it; and

(c) whether the study also warns that populists hikes in NREGS wages may further erode its potential for poverty reduction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) The Harvard Centre for Population and Development Studies has observed that the potential of NREGA is not fully realized because the Scheme has lead to inflation and undermines the self selection of the poor. However, the Ministry of Rural Development is not in agreement with this observation as the objective of NREGA is to supplement and not substitute employment opportunities, including agriculture. The 100 days employment guarantee is to ensure that the rural households can demand employment during lean agricultural season. The self selection of the poor is evident from the share of women, SCs and STs Beneficiaries in the total mandays of employment generated during the last three years of implementation of the Act which is as under:

Category of beneficiary	% of persondays generated during 2006-07	% of persondays generated during 2007-08	% of persondays generated during 2008-09
Women	41%	43%	48%
SCs	25%	27%	29%
ST	36%	29%	25%

(c) It is not correct to say so. Wages are paid to the NREGA workers in accordance with the wage rate as provided in Section 6 of the Act. Section 6(1) provides that Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of this Act provided that the wage rate notified by the Centre shall not be less than Rs. 60 per day.

Section 6(2) of NREGA provides that until such time as a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Governments under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be the wage rate applicable to that area.

Central Government has notified wage rate for NREGA workers under Section 6(1) of the Act with effect from 1.1.2009 which takes into account the wage rate as notified by the State Governments under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers.

Use of machine in NREGS work

2714. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers under NREGS in different States and those who got 100 days employment, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of women, Scheduled Caste beneficiaries of NREGS who got employment;

(c) the ratio of manual work and machine work in NREGS;

(d) whether 40 per cent machine work is compulsory;